

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/008197

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ C01B31/08, B01J20/20, B60K15/077, F02M25/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ C01B31/08, B01J20/20, B60K15/077, F02M25/08

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004

Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

USPTO PATENT FULL-TEXT AND IMAGE DATABASE, WPIL(DIALOG), JSTPlus(JOIS),
Activated Carbon, DBL Test, Butane, (continue to extra sheet)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6540815 B1 (MEADWESTVACO CORP.), 01 April, 2003 (01.04.03), Column 2, lines 31 to 52; table & WO 03/046362 A1	1-11
A	JP 2001-322872 A (Kabushiki Kaisha Tenekusu), 20 November, 2001 (20.11.01), Par. No. [0015]; table 1 & EP 1094032 A1 & US 6599856 B1	1-11
A	JP 9-63907 A (Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.), 07 March, 1997 (07.03.97), Examples (Family: none)	1-11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
02 September, 2004 (02.09.04)Date of mailing of the international search report
21 September, 2004 (21.09.04)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

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PCT/JP2004/008197

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 9-192485 A (Kuraray Chemical Kabushiki Kaisha), 29 July, 1997 (29.07.97), Examples (Family: none)	1-11
A	JP 2001-240407 A (Kuraray Chemical Kabushiki Kaisha), 04 September, 2001 (04.09.01), Examples (Family: none)	1-11
A	JP 8-83736 A (Nippon Sanso Corp.), 26 March, 1996 (26.03.96), Examples (Family: none)	1-11

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Claim 1 specifies the invention by a parameter that "an activated carbon product in a sheet form satisfying the formula: $b/a = 0.3$ to 0.55 , wherein a represents an amount of n-butane of 100 % concentration absorbed by 100 parts by weight of the activated carbon at 40°C and b represents an amount of n-butane of 1 % concentration absorbed by 100 parts by weight of the activated carbon at 40°C ". The parameter is, however, not used generally in the art. Therefore, the scope of an activated carbon being defined by such a parameter cannot be specified, even when the technical common sense at the time of the filing of the application is taken into consideration. Claim 1 lacks the clearness in the meaning of PCT Article 6.

Accordingly, the search has been carried out with respect to an activated carbon product in a sheet form which is produced by a method described specifically in the specification.

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED of second sheet

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Adsorption, Coconut, Brown Coal, Steam, Carbon Dioxide